

Serial No. 10/707,079

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to clarify the present invention.

Claims 29, 40, 70 and 81 have been amended. Claim 40 and 81 have been amended to clarify the present invention.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects the species F of FIGS. 19-23, on which amended claims 1-40 read.

Examiner states that the present invention should be separated into two distinct inventions I and II. Claims 29 and 70 have been amended to be drawn to a suspension system. Accordingly, the present invention does include two distinct inventions.

Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 29 are generic claims which read on each of the species of FIGS. 1 - 4d and 7 - 23. Each of the FIGS. 1 - 4d and 7 - 23 includes all the elements of claim 1: a lockout mechanism 12, 212, 312, 412, 543, 700 including a valve mechanism 18, 218, 318, 418, 544, 710 and a valve actuating assembly 20, 218, 318, 418, 545, 710; a valve mechanism housing 14, 214, 314, 414, 522, 721; and a resilient member 16, 56, 58, 594, 732, the valve mechanism separating a first fluid chamber 30, 230, 330, 430, 546, 723 from a second fluid chamber 32, 232, 332, 432, 548, 725. Also, each of the FIGS. 1 - 4d and 7 - 23 includes all the elements of claim 29: a valve mechanism 18, 218, 318, 418, 544, 710 for a suspension device, the suspension device including a valve mechanism housing 14, 214, 314, 414, 522, 721 and a valve stop member 20, 218, 318,

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418, 545, 710, the valve mechanism comprising: a valve seat 24, 58, 550, 722; and a valve 22, 556, 726, the valve mechanism separating a first fluid chamber 30, 230, 330, 430, 546, 723 from a second fluid chamber 32, 232, 332, 432, 548, 725.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in a divisional application prior to issuance of a patent on the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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